

**Special Meeting
April 26, 2007**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2007, in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Paul Luoma at 5:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance the following commissioners responded to roll call: Edward Jenich, District 1; Dennis Barrette, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Paul Luoma, District 5.

Additions to the agenda were #5 Planning Commission and #6 Personnel. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the agenda with the additions as stated. The motion carried with a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment None

Correspondence None

New Business

1. County Equalization – Tom Novascone, Houghton County Equalization Director. Tom went over the 2007 Equalization Report for Houghton County. The report shows the assessed value of each class of property in each unit of government within Houghton County. Each assessor of the local units of government must either add or reduce to reach a 50% ratio of their assessed value. He explained Duncan Township had to be reduced in the Commercial Class by 4,793. In the Timber-Cutover Class, Elm River had to be reduced 24,192 and Portage Township had to be reduced 18,669. The Equalized Value this year is 953,794,774. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to adopt the Equalization Report as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.
Yes: Jenich, Ala, Barrette, Pintar, Luoma 5.
No: None 0.
2. Deficit elimination resolutions. Eric Forsberg explained to the Board that the County is required to submit a plan and resolution for each fund that ended in the last fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance. Each plan and resolution must be approved by the Board.
 - A. Houghton County Airport Water and Sewer Fund Deficit Elimination Plan and Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to adopt the plan and resolution as presented.
Carried by the following vote:
Yes: Barrette, Jenich, Pintar, Ala, Luoma 5.
No: None 0.
 - B. Houghton County Passenger Facility Charge Fund Deficit Elimination Plan and Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adopt the plan and resolution as presented.
Carried by the following vote:
Yes: Ala, Pintar, Jenich, Barrette, Luoma 5.
No: None 0.
 - C. Houghton County Marina Deficit Elimination Plan and Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to adopt the plan and resolution as presented.
Carried by the following vote:
Yes: Jenich, Ala, Barrette, Pintar, Luoma 5.
No: None 0.
 - D. Houghton County 2006 Delinquent Property Tax Sale Deficit Elimination Plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to adopt the plan and resolution as presented.
Carried by the following vote:
Yes: Barrette, Ala, Jenich, Pintar, Luoma 5.
No: None 0.
3. Health Department intergovernmental agreement. Eric stated the Prosecutor's Office has reviewed the document and now that it was reviewed, he recommends that the Board approve the agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the agreement as submitted. Carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
4. Request to hire vendor for Homeland Security Grant. Roy Britz, 911 Coordinator, said they are trying to enhance and upgrade the VHS equipment in Houghton

County for the fire-pagers and first responders. He said he would like the Board to approve negotiations with El-Com services of Marquette to design / install the upgrade. The cost would be covered by the Homeland Security Grant and would be no cost to the County. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to allow Roy Britz to negotiate with El-Com for the upgrade. Carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. Planning Commission – Commissioner Pintar had a question about the U.P. Power Company's Shoreline Management Plan for Prickett Dam. He was not sure if this was something that the Planning Commission was to review and then it goes before the County Board. A discussion followed. The Planning Commission will meet on May 7th and a representative from UPPCO will address them. They will then make a recommendation to the County Board at their May 15th meeting.
6. Personnel – Eric Forsberg announced that Tom Novascone, Houghton County Equalization Director will be leaving at the end of May. The County will advertise for a level 3 assessor to fill the position..

Public Comment

Eric said the Rural Development Grants that were applied for, for the rescue sleds that were purchased and for the squad cars, were approved. However, they were just notified that there was no funding. The State reviewed the Marina Study and sent it back for more information. It has been sent to U.P. Engineering.

Matt Arko asked if the local assessors and townships could have some input and meet the applicants for the Equalization Director before the person is hired.

Commissioner Ala made a motion to adjourn the meeting. There being no objection, Commissioner Luoma announced the meeting was adjourned.

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk